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Drag to the river's brink the heavy spoil,
Thence floated downward to the distant mart,
And chang'd from nature's form, to works of art." p. 19.

"His cumber'd land the sturdy yeoman clears ;
Fell'd by his strokes, the forest prostrate lies ;
Its vital sap the glowing summer dries,
And last the bonfires burn, the boughs consume,
And spreading flames the hemisphere illume.
The fresh'ning breezes fan the growing blaze,
Rear the bright sparks and cloudy columns raise,
And whirl the storm of rushing fires along
O'er lighted hills, and crackling vales among.
Swift fly the birds, as spreads the ruin round,
The frightened reptiles hide within the ground,
And all the forest tribes grow wilder at the sound." p. 21.

Neither these lines, nor any others of the poem, contain any bold strokes of genius or delicate touches of art ; yet they indicate talents which the possessor might mature into very respectable poetical powers.



ART. XI. *An account of the events, that have taken place in Pernambuco since the happy and glorious revolution commenced, in the town of the Recife, on the sixth of March, in which the generous endeavours of our brave Patriots exterminated in this part of Brazil, the infernal monster of royal tyranny.*
Printed at Pernambuco, March 10, 1817.

SINCE Europe has ceased to be convulsed, and its agitated surface begun to settle into peaceful smoothness, the attention of men has been drawn to South America ; and that part of our continent has become the scene of the most interesting transactions, that are now taking place in the world. A grand spectacle is presented in the extent of territory, over which the contest between established authority and newly conceived rights is spread—the vindictive violence, with which the struggle is conducted—the millions of people engaged in the conflict, and the importance of the interests to be decided upon. We of the United States contemplate these transactions with a lively concern. Our example has animated the South-American provinces to declare themselves independent, and the times are fresh in our recollection, when

our own enthusiasm and courage were inflamed by the same exclamations of *liberty, rights, independence, tyranny*; and we feelingly remember with what fearful odds the ardour of stripling power wages war against the mature and practised strength of habitual authority.

In regard to the great interests of humanity, these convulsions afford no subject of regret or apprehension, for it seems to us impossible, that the result should leave the people of South America in a condition of deeper degradation and wretchedness, than that in which they have existed under the imbecile despotisms of Portugal and Spain. With respect to our particular interest, we have little to lose; our political system is not propped up by any set of prejudices, which will be endangered by the shock of this concussion, though it should be sufficiently violent to crush the decayed fabricks of Spanish and Portuguese oppression. We may suffer a little by the temptations which these contests hold out to the adventurous spirits of our young men, and also by the rash speculations of our merchants. But we ought not to grudge the loss of a few enterprising individuals, if their emigration to South America affords them the chance of imparting to the people there something of our skill in the arts of living and of government; and though mercantile enterprise may urge on some few to imprudent and disadvantageous risks, yet we shall probably be great gainers on the whole, by having free access to the resources which a revolution will throw open to our commerce.

Whatever may be our wishes concerning the future welfare of the inhabitants of those countries, we have no ground to expect that they will soon form independent governments, of sufficient strength to bind together their heterogeneous materials, and elaborate them into a uniform body by an upright administration of salutary and equal laws. The character of the people makes that of the government, and their principal difference consists in this, that the latter is commonly much the worse of the two; and this is very natural; it would be a phenomenon unprecedented and not to be explained, if a nation were found, where the people as private citizens were profligate, knavish, and weak; while as the members and instruments of the government, they were wise, economical, and honest. A government and a people, between which there has long been a mutual action and reaction, become assimilated to each other, and accordingly a

government of long standing is a pretty safe index of both national and individual character.

Judging, then, of the people of South America, by the governments under which they have long endured existence, or by what we can directly learn concerning themselves, we can form but slender hopes of any political constitutions they will be able soon to establish. The Portuguese and Spanish governments are commonly represented to be among the most degraded, feeble and corrupt, of political institutions. Now colonial governments are known to be generally, perhaps universally, the degenerate offspring of those from which they emanate. They are the clumsy imitations of humble followers, who, in aping their betters, display a union of all their faults, with only a shew of their virtues. It will appear from the account we propose to give of the revolution in Pernambuco, that the government of that province was a rotten branch of a decayed stock. The governor bought his office of the creatures of the court, and looked for remuneration through his own creatures in his captaincy. The other officers carried on the same sort of traffick. The collectors of the revenue frequently sold their connivance at the evasion of the laws. The judges often received bribes of both parties in a suit, and gave judgment in favour of him who bid the highest price upon it. It is altogether improbable, that a people, that has been long governed in this manner, should possess those exalted notions of justice and that reverence for fixed principles and the uniform and irresistible operation of laws, which are necessary to a popular government, which is, in effect, no other than political self-government.

By looking into the internal structure, and composition of society in the Spanish and Portuguese provinces for data on calculation, concerning the political institutions which it is possible for them to constitute and administer, we shall find sufficient grounds of discouragement; but there are not wanting those of hope. We may leave out of consideration the civil, military, and judicial officers of the old government; as, in case of any civil commotion, they will generally be induced by their habits, their supposed interest, and evident danger, to quit the scene; unless they are able to reduce the rebels. The secular clergy being entitled to protection by their profession, and attached to their people by the ties of duty and feeling, are likely to remain

fixed to the soil, whether it be under monarchical or republican jurisdiction. Many of them are said to be men of learning and worth, little qualified, however, by their profession, for the civil affairs of a commonwealth. If they engage in publick business, their narrow views will rather embarrass than strengthen a government. The best, and perhaps the only service they can render, is in the discharge of their ecclesiastical functions, and even here, no great reliance can be placed upon them by the government in a new order of things.

The friars are accounted an indolent, contemptible race, incapable of importance or usefulness under any government.

The landholders are an important part of every community. Those of Brazil are said to be illiterate and inactive. They commonly own an extensive tract of land, and carry on a system of cultivation not unlike that of South Carolina and Georgia. Their insular, detached situation, in respect to each other, prevents them from acting as a body, and there is accordingly little danger of their being the first movers of disturbance, under any system, new or old. They have the whole art of politicks and free citizenship to learn, and are not in a situation to make rapid progress in their new study.

There are some remnants of the original inhabitants of different tribes, and those of Pernambuco generally live in little villages, built of straw and clay. They subsist upon wild fruits in the season of them, and at other times labour merely enough to procure what is absolutely necessary to existence. Their number is small, and they are of no more political importance than the wild animals, in whose neighbourhood they commonly dwell. This is the account we receive from gentlemen of Pernambuco; but we ought not to omit to add, that Brewster's Encyclopedia represents their number to be much greater, and comprising, at least, one third of the whole population, and mentions them as entitled to more consideration. But neither the Encyclopedias, nor Gazetteers are very good authorities upon this subject.

The slaves compose between one fourth and one third part of the inhabitants, and may be considered as so much dead weight on the machinery of government.

In every considerable town, are a few Europeans, between whom and the Brazilians there is often some degree of antipathy. These generally come out from Portugal on commercial enterprises, and retain their favourable dispositions to the monarchy.

But the body and strength of the population consists of Brazilians, comprehending those descended of Europeans, as well as those who count among their ancestors both Europeans and the aborigines of the country. Among these there is a feeling of kindred and common interest, without much regard to the slight shades of distinction in complexion. It is with these and a few restless, aspiring, or generous-spirited foreigners, that the revolutionary movements commence. The instruments first used here, as every where else in similar cases, are the populace of the towns. These are put in motion by the merchants, lawyers, and soldiers, and with these three descriptions of men, originate the patriotick designs and efforts. Masonry affords them a convenient channel of communication, with the more respectable part of the community, and the Portuguese government, sensible of the facilities which the masonick art gives for projecting and communicating secret designs, prohibited it by law. But this only put them to the trouble of adding to their other secrets, that of the existence of their society, and its nominal annihilation only served to add to the number and zeal of of its members. This association may be made one of the most efficient instruments in giving strength and stability to the new governments. But, after all, it seems almost impossible that the few enlightened individuals among them, should, with the external political change, produce an internal moral revolution, in an untutored people. There is the greatest danger that the leaders themselves may not be united by any common views and principles of sufficient strength to hold them together sufficient time to go through with the process. It is doubtful whether it is possible, under any circumstances, to effect such a revolution in the space of a few years. We may not, however, despair of their being able, in some of the provinces, to bring about an order of things, which, though rude and imperfect, may yet contain in itself the principles of improvement and progression, and be finally modified and adjusted into proportion, and matured into strength and durability. This is more likely to happen in Brazil, than in the Spanish colonies; for the Portuguese are much more tractable and docile, than the Spaniards, and their intercourse with the English has given them some information and liberality of mind.

United resistance to a bad government, and its overthrow by the irresistible heavings of national feeling, are no proof

that the people are capable of a better. No people ever detested arbitrary power more heartily, or admired personal liberty and rights with more enthusiasm, than did recently the French; but when they were free to constitute whatever government they pleased, they showed that they were incapable of exercising or submitting to any other than an absolute power. They are destitute of that moral structure of character, which is the basis and indispensable requisite of a stable, free polity. So the South Americans have sufficient indignation against the corruption and arbitrary interferences and exactions of their old governments; they are also warmly affected by their new love of just laws, security of property and personal liberty; but these sentiments do not give them the skill and prudence necessary to form and administer sound institutions. It is possible however that they may instruct themselves by experience, and where so little is hazarded, and so much may be gained, we are very glad that an experiment is made.

We have made these remarks with a particular view to the recent events in Pernambuco, of which we purpose to give a short account, upon the authority of respectable gentlemen, who were on the spot, and took a part in the transactions.

The captaincy, as it is called, of Pernambuco, forms the most eastern part of South America, between the latitude of five and eleven degrees south, and with the captaincies of Paraiba and Rio Grande towards the north, extends along the coast about six hundred miles, and into the interior to the distance of six or eight hundred miles. By the returns of the parish priests, made last year, it appears that the number of inhabitants in Pernambuco is one million one hundred thousand, comprehending people of all sorts, foreigners and natives, freemen and slaves. The captaincies of Paraiba and Rio Grande are comparatively small, but of the number of inhabitants we are not informed. This population is scattered, very sparingly of course, over this extensive territory. The capital, bearing the name of the province, called also the town of the Recife, contains 32,000 inhabitants; Olinda, about four miles distant to the north, 13,000; Guiana, in the interior, about forty miles from the capital, 15 or 20,000; Paraiba, the capital of the captaincy of the same name, 6000; and Rio Grande, 5000; there are other towns in these captaincies of one, two, and three thousand.

The remainder of the population is scattered in villages, farm-houses, and plantations, occupying patches of cultivated lands, surrounded by forests and unsubdued tracts. The climate is salubrious and temperate, the thermometer rarely rising above the eighty fourth degree; and the soil, though difficult to bring into cultivation on account of the luxuriance of spontaneous vegetation, yields in prodigious abundance. The pure atmosphere and healthful climate give tone and sensibility to the physical organs of the inhabitants, while nature spreads before them a perpetual banquet, and unceasingly regales their senses with the mingled beauty of flowers and richness of ripened fruits.

The provinces of South America were no doubt reminded, by our revolution and subsequent national importance, that they were but colonies, though they might be independent and powerful states; yet the Pernambucans, with the other inhabitants of Brazil, lived on in contented and inglorious loyalty, till Bonaparte drove their sovereign from his European capital. The news of the prince's voyage having preceded him, the governour of Pernambuco fitted out a vessel laden with provisions, to meet the royal fleet, and the people testified their loyalty and joy by voluntary contributions of all sorts of delicate refreshments, with which to welcome their sovereign. On his arrival and establishment at Rio Jeneiro, they thought that the era of the glory and happiness of the Brazilians, had commenced. These hopes were disappointed, as was to be expected, but the disappointment was not sudden, and produced little sensation among the people. They anticipated some great and glorious good, they hardly defined to themselves what, which, when they failed to realize, they felt rather the regret of parting with a pleasing illusion, than resentment at having sustained a serious wrong. They have never, like us, been in the habit of conning over their grievances till they had learned them by rote, or reiterating remonstrances and demanding redresses, with respectful, but bold and persevering importunity. But though they were not versed in the arts of resisting and controlling the administration of government, and had not made a multitude of political maxims a part of their habitual system of acting and thinking, still they were not regardless of the affairs of government, or unconscious that they had personal rights and interests. The moral and political commotions, that have been agitating society, produced some sensation in the Por-

tuguese colonies ; and the increasing and steady splendour of reason, as well as the fitful and glaring coruscations of the new philosophy, emitted faint glimmerings into that distant region of mental obscurity. They had been taught by intercourse with Englishmen and Americans, that kings were, at least, made as much for their subjects, as subjects for their kings. They had learned insensibly, and by something like a new faculty of intuition, that publick prosperity is intimately connected with individual welfare. Their eyes were opened, they hardly knew how, to the weakness and corruption of their own government, and they began to entertain a conviction, that it was possible for them to be much more powerful and respected as a community, and much more free, secure, and better informed, as individuals. The contest between loyalty and republicanism in the neighbouring Spanish colonies, of which it was impossible to prevent them from obtaining some obscure, uncertain intelligence, suggested to them the thoughts of expelling a government, whose character they began now pretty well to understand, and of erecting themselves into independent commonwealths. Though there was no press, no newspaper, or other convenient channel of information at Pernambuco, yet the people had, by some means or other, universally come to an understanding that a revolution was very probable, and had accordingly made up their minds to that event. No plan of effecting it was formed, nor did those who desired it most and who expected to be the leaders, propose to take the first steps in bringing it about. They conversed with each other secretly upon the subject, and thus while they were insensibly working themselves up to meet the crisis, and by that means hastening it, they resolved patiently to wait for some measure of the government that would excite resistance, or some other favourable conjuncture, when the patriots of the city were to take up arms ; upon receiving intelligence of which, their friends in the other towns, and in the country, were to come in to support them with as many followers as they could collect. But all this was rather tacitly understood, than expressly agreed upon, and it was not expected that there would so soon be an occasion of carrying their views into effect.

The governour and judge of Pernambuco were appointed by the king for three years. At the time of the revolution Caetano Pinto de Miranda Montenegro had held the office

of governour for thirteen years, and had administered the affairs of the captaincy in such a manner, as not to excite the particular dislike of the people. They made some complaints of his indolence, and love of pleasure, and inattention to their applications for his protection and interference, but they considered him, on the whole, as a pretty good sort of man. The same causes, which made the people republicans, rendered him more vigilant. On the fifth of March last, he and his council, coming to the conclusion that the republican dispositions of the principal citizens and military officers must be checked by some strong measures, made a list of proscription, containing between one and two hundred names of the most distinguished men of the province. Among these was a son of one of the council who was present. The men thus proscribed were to be arrested and imprisoned, and some of them publicly executed, some secretly poisoned, and others, perhaps, set at large, when it could be done with safety. This proceeding was kept secret, and was not made known till after the revolution, when it was disclosed by the counsellor whose son was among the proscribed, and who espoused the cause of the patriots.

On the morning of the following day, the sixth, the governour gave orders for the arrest of Domingos Joze Martins, a distinguished merchant. But to prevent alarm, the officer was ordered to direct Martins to wait upon the governour. He readily attended the messenger through the streets, and over the bridge that separates the different parts of the town, till they came to the common gaol, when he was informed that he was a prisoner, and was put into confinement. Three military officers were meantime arrested, one of whom, by name of Domingos Theotorio Jorge, understanding the cause of the arrest, exclaimed against the injustice and tyranny of the proceeding, as he was passing through the streets to the place of his confinement, and called upon the citizens to take up arms.

It was now about one o'clock, when another officer went to the quarters of the soldiers, to arrest a captain by the name of Joze de Barros Lima, who drew his sword and stabbed the officer, and being seconded by his son in law, they killed him on the spot. Intelligence of this transaction being carried to the governour, another of his officers, coveting the glory of bringing rebels to punishment, offered his services to go and fetch Barros. The governour would

have dissuaded him, but he persisted, and was accordingly dispatched on the commission. But he volunteered his services in an unfortunate enterprise, for the scene that had just been acted, and the addresses and appeals of Barros and his son-in-law, had wrought up the soldiers, about two hundred in number, to the highest pitch of enthusiasm and desperation, so that on coming to their quarters, he found them under arms, and was saluted with the cries of *liberty, long live Joze de Barros Lima, long live our country*; and as soon as the soldiers saw him, they exclaimed, *another tyrant, there is our enemy*, and immediately discharged their pieces at him, and he was perforated by so many balls, that "his body was," to use the narrator's expression, "like a sieve."

This had passed in a short space of time, it being now but about two o'clock, when Pedro de Silva Pedroza, a captain of artillery, put himself at the head of the soldiers, and led them towards the prison, which they forced and set Martins, whom we have before mentioned, and about two hundred other prisoners, debtors, felons, &c. at liberty. Martins harangued the soldiers, demanded arms for the prisoners, and called upon the citizens to espouse the cause of their country. He was answered with shouts of enthusiasm and applause. A body of five hundred was instantly formed, who, with Pedroza and Martins at their head, proceeded directly to the treasury, where the marshal was already stationed with about four hundred militia hastily assembled, they hardly knew for what cause. Both parties seemed to be fully sensible of the importance of the four millions of dollars deposited there, either in promoting or obstructing a revolution. They proposed to the marshal the alternative of surrendering, with the promise of departing in safety to the fort, or resisting without the hope of quarter. He chose the former, and very prudently, as appears from the fact that his militia-men, as soon as they learned the object of these movements, flew to embrace the new patriots, and devoted themselves to the cause of republicanism.

The governor and his attendants had meantime taken shelter in the fortress of Brum, which commands the entrance of the harbour.

Only a trifling achievement now remained to give the patriots undisputed possession of the town. Pernambuco is situated on the coast, at the mouth of the rivers Bibiribe and Capivaribe. The Capivaribe comes from the south and

running through the town parallel to the coast, forms a junction with the Bibiribe; when their united waters flow through the town again towards the south, and are discharged into the harbour. The town is thus divided into three parts, which are connected to each other by two wooden bridges. The part next the ocean is called the Recife; the intermediate part, Outra Bunda; and that on the opposite bank of the Capivaribe, being the most inland, Boa Vista. About four hundred loyalist Europeans had collected, with axes and three or four pieces of cannon at the eastern end of the bridge, that connects the Recife with Outra Bunda. Some were firing the cannon, though without effect, not being very skilful engineers; while others were employed in cutting away the bridge, with the intention of interrupting all communication between those two parts of the town. They had not, however, proceeded far in their work, when a detachment of fifteen or twenty soldiers appeared on the opposite side of the river, with one piece of cannon. A discharge of one or two cartridges of powder, without ball, put the Europeans to flight, who, abandoning their cannon and axes, vanished among the inhabitants, and thus, it being now about three o' clock, the revolution was completed.

During the remainder of the day, and the following night, the town exhibited as little confusion as could be expected on so sudden an explosion. The leaders of the patriots were busy in making arrangements, giving orders, and providing for their own and the publick safety. Many of the more wealthy inhabitants shut themselves up in their houses, waiting to learn in what character it would be prudent for them to make their appearance. Others were running to and fro, in wild joy or astonishment; and shouts of "long live the patriots, long live our country, and destruction to royal tyranny," resounded from every quarter, while the bells were ringing and the drums beating in every part of the city. But no property was injured or violence committed, except that the soldiers massacred some twelve or fifteen, who refused to unite in these exclamations.

On the next day, the seventh, the governour, accepting the terms offered him, took his departure from the province, being guarded by the patriots out of the harbour, and till he was beyond the reach of danger and insult. Bands of musick were kept playing in the streets, as signals of concord and peace.

Early on the eighth, the people were assembled in the court of the treasury, to hear and approve a paper, signed by thirty or forty of their leaders, in which Jacio Ribeiro Pessoa, a priest; Mr. Martins, already mentioned, a merchant; Domingos Theotitorio Jorge, a military officer, and one of those arrested; a land holder, who had also been a colonel of militia; and Joze Luiz de Mendonca, a lawyer, were proposed as the members of a provisional government. The people elected them by acclamation, after the manner of the French revolution.

During all this time and a few following days, patriots were flocking into the town from every direction, armed, some with guns, and others with pikes, or whatever other rude weapon they could hastily fabricate or procure. But, there being no service for them to perform, they returned peaceably to their homes. Many of the priests took up arms, and offered their services to the government. The students of the college of Olinda were formed into a military company, for the practice of martial exercises. Some of the planters offered all their horses to mount the cavalry that was forming, and presented great supplies of provisions for the use of the army. The vicar of the Cape of St. Augustine, a town on the coast eighteen miles south of Pernambuco, came into the hall where the new government was sitting, on the Sunday morning after the revolution, which took place on Thursday, and offered to make them a present of all his own property, and told them, that, if the publick exigencies required it, the silver candlesticks of his church should be at their service. In the afternoon of the same day he brought in a slave, the only one of which he was master, whom he declared free, that he might enter the publick service as a soldier, declaring at the same time, that he himself should be ever ready to die by the side of his manumitted slave, fighting in the cause of liberty.

Intelligence was soon received that the captaincies of Paraiba and Rio Grande of the North, had followed the example of Pernambuco. At Paraiba the women offered to the new government all their jewels and trinkets, and were even desirous to bear arms by the side of their husbands and brothers, and prove themselves worthy descendants of the heroes who drove the Dutch from Paraiba in 1640.

On the ninth, the new government published a proclama-

tion, calculated to quiet the apprehensions of the Europeans, and unite them in the patriotick cause.

This proclamation was the first thing ever printed at Pernambuco. It was fortunate for the patriots, that, about two years ago, a Mr. Catanho had imported a printing press into Pernambuco. He had spent the intermediate time and about twelve hundred dollars, in conducting a petition through the ministerial avenues to the throne, and, a few days before the revolution, had procured a royal license to print, at Pernambuco, such things as the governour and his council might approve. He had sold the privilege and the press to Mr Martins, who made a present of the press to the new government.

A second publication issued from this press on the tenth, which was an account of the revolution that had just taken place, and the translated title of which is prefixed to this article. This paper is drawn up not without ability, and is well adapted to the circumstances under which it was published. It complains of the policy of the old government in exciting animosity between the Europeans and native Brazilians, the plain meaning of which probably is, that offices and privileges were confined to the former. It speaks of the duplicity, corruptness, and enormous exactions of 'the royal tyranny;' informs the people of the abolition of titles, and inculcates upon them the importance of a unanimity of views, and the industrious pursuit of their agriculture and other occupations. It states that neither the civil or judicial officers had been displaced, and that they continued to discharge their functions, as if nothing had happened.

The new government exhibited great activity and prudence, in employing men of talents in the publick service, repairing and strengthening the fortifications, and equipping and disciplining an army. They had, by the fifth of April, five regiments, making in all about four thousand five hundred men, well equipped, and as well disciplined as the short time would permit. It was intended to increase the army to the number of fifteen thousand. That number will, they think, be sufficient to withstand any force the king can send against them. They supposed that, at any rate, though their force shall fall far short of what they propose, they can retire into the interior, and there be invincible; and by continually harassing their assailants, and picking them off one after another, finally become conquerours.

It is a fact, worthy of remark, that one of the five regiments is composed entirely of blacks, which proves that they are now of considerable consequence, or are likely to be so, if the revolution succeeds.

Supposing this account to be somewhat favourable to the patriots, as it probably is, still it appears that they have among them no inconsiderable concert, prudence, and liberality of views. They seem to take advantage of circumstances with promptness and address, and to use every means of husbanding and multiplying their resources. But whatever be their talents or courage, it is evident that their limited resources render their fate dependent on the disposition of the other parts of Brazil.

ART. XII. *Sancho, or the Proverbialist.* By J. W. Cunningham, Vicar of Harrow. Boston, Wells & Lilly, 1817.

AUTHORS in our day have certainly very little right to complain of the patience of their readers; they meet with much of that charity that believeth all things, hopeth all things, is not easily provoked. When a man has once acquired popular favour, or even caught the popular eye, with whatever inclination it looks on him, the trade of authorship becomes immediately profitable. His first work, if it meet with success, whether from merit or caprice, is a recommendation for all that follow, however indifferent. A good beginning is like a letter of introduction, and of old it had no longer efficacy than those missions have in England, where they entitle a man to one dinner, and after that leave him to make his way by his good behaviour; but of late, readers have adopted the hospitality of our southern planters, with whom a letter operates as a consignment for the season. This readiness to be pleased, though an excellent quality of the heart, marks but an indifferent state of taste; and is one of the many proofs of an opinion which we hold, that an extensive diffusion of the elements of literature is unfavourable to its eminence. When education was hard to be obtained, and depended altogether on individual exertion, it naturally fell to the lot of the most powerful minds alone. An author had not then his choice of writing for the vulgar or the learned, for then the vulgar could not read; and if he hoped that his book